

COURAGE OF PHELPS AS FIGHTER SHOWN

Pluck of Candidate in War Told by Superior Officer.

LEGS BROKEN IN ARGONNE

Platoon Leader Fearlessly Gets Own Men Out of Danger Before Seeking Cover Himself.

As a fighting man, F. M. Phelps, candidate for the republican nomination for representative in the state legislature, proved his mettle, and those who served with the Portland soldier through the Argonne offensive are eager to lend aid to their former "buddy" during the closing hour of the present political campaign.

Several incidents of the war which reveal the high courage of Mr. Phelps have just been brought to light in a letter received in Portland from a former superior officer of Mr. Phelps, who had occasion to observe him during those trying hours when the boche was being driven slowly but surely back to certain and lasting defeat.

Letter Explains Itself. The letter itself better explains why Mr. Phelps is being considered by the soldiers who served with him and under him. It reads, in part:

"For more than a year I was in almost daily contact with him and his work and I found him one of the most conscientious, self-sacrificing, hard-working individuals I have ever known," writes his former superior officer. "The most difficult tasks were always undertaken cheerfully and well done by him. He is capable, careful, broad-minded and steady, and would to my mind make an excellent representative of the people of his constituency."

There is one other reason why Mr. Phelps deserves this small amount of recognition at the hands of the citizens of his county. On the morning of September 26, 1918, the 1st division participated in the final attack of the great Argonne offensive. Mr. Phelps was assigned and he led a platoon in the front line of the attacking regiment. That morning during the "Indian" fighting in Cheppy woods I came upon Phelps crouched in a shell hole with a wounded sergeant of his platoon and he was trying single-handed to shoot up an entire battalion of the enemy which was entrenched on the hillside just across a ravine. The remainder of his platoon and become scattered in the fog and fighting in the woods and Phelps and this sergeant were out there in front in direct contact with the enemy under the combined fire of at least 20 machine guns, giving shot for shot and never flinching.

Bravery Has Effect. "The persistency and dogged bravery of the man seemed to have its effect on the enemy, for not long after I came upon the scene the boche began to retire and Phelps peppered them with his automatic as long as they remained in sight. The last I saw of him was that he was still trying to stop the enemy from tying up the wounds of his gallant sergeant."

"On the following day the division was still being pushed because of the character of the fighting the day before, but orders had been given for units to be ready for a counter-push on. Phelps found himself at day-break with a group of 50 men and in obedience to his orders pushed on. I myself was present with him that entire day. Just after day-break this little group was surrounded in a ravine and began to receive the combined fire from front, rear and sides of six enemy machine guns and numerous snipers. All hands took what cover was available and proceeded to answer the enemy fire, under Phelps' cool command. But within a few minutes more than half the force had been killed or wounded. Phelps then passed the word, 'Every man for himself' and the men began to get out as best they could. Most of those yet unhit managed to get out and rejoin the regiment, which had withdrawn more than a mile to the rear for the purpose of reorganization. Phelps stayed until the last man was out and then proceeded to get out himself."

Both Legs Broken. "I saw him fall and knew that he was hit. Later I learned that he had received two machine gun bullets, one in each leg just below the hip, breaking the bones of both legs. I took cover, unable to move, although miraculously unhit. I watched Phelps that entire day and every time he moved in the agonies of his wounds the devils on the hillside sniped at him and spurs of dust were continually being thrown up about him as the bullets struck near by. That afternoon both the British and German artillery shelled the little ravine in which we lay and to avoid being struck by this fire Phelps rolled over and over with his legs dragging and dangling for a distance of 50 yards or more to a spot untouched by fire. Many shells I saw strike within 10 or 20 feet of him before this move."

"To make a long story short, that evening at dusk we were rescued and I saw Phelps carried back to the first aid station before I rejoined my regiment. He lay in that first aid station in the rain without attention and on dirty, bloody blankets, in company with over 200 others, for two days more before the ambulances came to carry him to the hospital."

Walking Still Difficult. "The bones of one leg were shattered that they had to be reinforced with wire, and he walks today with more or less difficulty and is still far from being the man, physically, he was before the war."

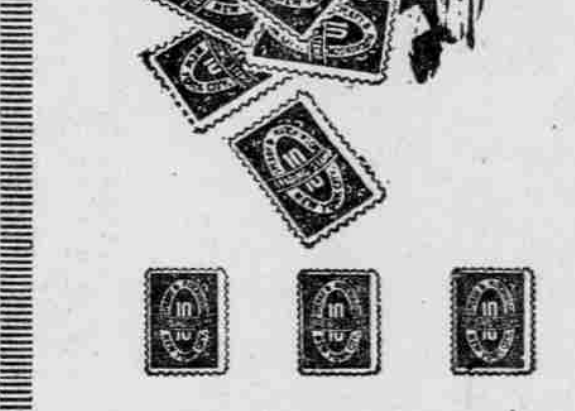
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TACOMA BOURBONS SPLIT VICTORY OF A. R. TITLOW CAUSES EXTREME EMOTIONS. Failure of Committee to Assist Office Holder Under Charges by Williams Faction.

CLAUSE DEEMED ILLEGAL OPINION GIVEN ON PROTECTING SELLERS OF AUTOS. Attorney Declares Policy Safeguarding Against Confiscation Would Boost Law Breaking.

SALEM, Or., May 20.—(Special.)—It would be against public policy for insurance corporations to include a clause in their policies providing protection for sellers of automobiles against the loss of cars confiscated because of their use in transporting liquors in violation of the federal laws, according to a legal opinion given by L. H. Van Winkle, assistant attorney-general, today.

SALEM, Or., May 20.—(Special.)—The Salem Rotary club at its noon-day luncheon here today went on record endorsing the 2-mill tax for the support of the elementary schools and the measure providing more funds for the higher educational institutions. Harley O. White spoke in favor of the measure.

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ALL THE BRAN YOU NEED combined with the body-building elements in the whole wheat grain and all prepared in a digestible form. In making Shredded Wheat Biscuit the bran (so useful in promoting bowel movement) is retained and scattered along the filmy shreds of baked whole wheat, forming the most perfect of all cereal foods. Two of these crisp and tasty little loaves with milk or cream make a nourishing meal at a cost of a few cents. Delicious with sliced bananas, or other fruits.

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